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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council, reaffirming Iraqi failure to comply with resolution 687 (1991), regrets "lack of any indication" by Iraq of how that country intends to comply with its obligations, rejects "threats, allegations and attacks" made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.
- + Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in former Yugoslavia tells Third Committee nothing could explain "disdain for life and human dignity" in Bosnia and Herzegovina; reports on human rights situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, El Salvador and Myanmar also presented.
- + World Food Programme ship approaching Mogadishu harbor is set afire, leaves harbor without unloading its humanitarian supplies; incident raised immediately and very strongly by Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia with the parties involved.
- + Panel of independent high-level experts on reform of Secretariat structures in economic and social field concludes deliberations; Secretary-General designates K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to supervise next phase of restructuring.

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The Security Council today expressed regret at the "lack of any indication" in the statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz this morning of "how the Government of Iraq intends to comply with the resolutions of the Council". It also regretted the "baseless threats, allegations and attacks" launched by Mr. Aziz against the Council, the Special Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Boundary Demarcation Commission and the Committee established by resolution 661 (1991)". Rejecting in toto those threats, the Council reiterated its declaration of yesterday that "Iraq has not yet complied fully and unconditionally with its obligations" under resolution 687 (1991) and must immediately take the appropriate actions in that regard.

The Council's statement was read out by its President André Erdos (Hungary), following a statement this morning by Mr. Aziz in which he

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maintained that Iraq had fulfilled its commitments, especially those relating to the embargo. The Iraqi Minister said the United Nations bore the responsibility for the bitter suffering of the Iraqi people brought on by the Council sanctions.

Today's meeting was a resumption of the Council's review yesterday of the compliance by Iraq with its obligations under Council resolutions. During the review, Council President Erdos, United Nations experts et a number of delegations described Iraq's failure to comply with those resolutions.

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Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) this morning that nothing could explain "the disdain for life and human dignity" that he had found on his two trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In introducing his report, one of five country reports on human rights presented at the meeting, Mr. Mazowiecki said that murder, rape, the burning of houses, the destruction of churches and the obliteration of cemeteries had all been used to further the goals of "ethnic cleansing". To a large extent, he said, they had been attained.

He recommended, among other things: expanding the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to include the prevention of human rights violations; reaffirmation of the right of refugees and displaced persons to return, to ensure there was no acquiescence to ethnic cleansing; and the establishment of a small number of human rights monitors under his direction, for a continued investigation of serious human rights violations.

Max van der Stoel, the Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur for Iraq, also called for the deployment of monitors. He said the use of monitors had been rejected by the Iraqi Government as an unacceptable violation of sovereignty, but the massive violations there presented an "exceptionally grave situation". "Anybody who dared show a sign of disagreement with the Government in Iraq risked his life", he said.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation in Afghanistan, Felix Ermacora, said that, although the transition to an Islamic Government in May had initially been smooth, factional fighting had broken out soon after, resulting in a disastrous security and human rights situation.

The fate of Afghan refugees was one of the principal problems. More than 1 million people had returned between May and August -- an historic event -- but the return of the 4 million refugees still living abroad was contingent upon political developments. Since the complete breakdown of law and order in Kabul, an estimated 500,000 persons had fled the city. About 10,000 persons had been killed and 30,000 to 40,000 wounded.

In El Salvador people had been living in peace for the past year, following a 10-year armed conflict, said Pedro Nikken, the Independent Expert

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on the human rights situation there. The country was the scene of one of most important efforts of the United Nations to achieve reconciliation and peace. The cessation of violence since the signing last year of a Peace Agreement between the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had created an atmosphere of mutual respect for the rights of all, yet human rights violations continued and the means to combat them remained weak.

In Myanmar, information received from non-governmental sources indicated that many serious human rights violations were still occurring, the Special Rapporteur on the situation in that country told the Third Committee. He said he would be visiting Myanmar from 7 to 15 December, as well as speaking to refugees from Myanmar in Thailand and Bangladesh. The alleged violations included extrajudicial executions, disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention, suppression of fundamental freedoms and persecution of ethnic and religious minorities. The response of the Government, he said, seemed to be that all such allegations were unfounded and untrue.

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A World Food Programme (WFP) ship approaching Mogadishu harbor had been hit by fire and set afire and had turned around leaving the harbor without unloading its humanitarian supplies, according to a cable by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani today.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that the incident was "a direct, major violation" of the agreement reached with the parties that the port and the harbor would not be the subject of fire. He added that in addition to the WFP ship, two additional ships were in Mogadishu harbor waiting to be unloaded.

The incident was raised immediately and very strongly by the Secretary-General's Special Representative with the parties involved.

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The panel of independent high-level experts established by the Secretary-General in August to advise him on the reform of Secretariat structures in the economic and social field concluded its deliberations on Sunday, 22 November, in a private meeting with the Secretary-General.

According to the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, the deliberations covered United Nations Secretariat structures in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Rome; such global entities as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and HABITAT; operational programmes like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP); and regional and field structures. The main objective of the review was to achieve "better integration of the economic, social and environmental work of the Organization and bring about a higher level institutional performance".

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The Spokesman said an announcement conveying the Secretary-General's initial decisions was expected in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General had accepted the recommendation of the panel that he should designate a high-level official "to follow up and, under his authority, oversee ... the next phase of Secretariat reform so as to insure its effective management and speedy implementation." The Secretary-General had designated K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for that task.

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